B12 concld

. 4,4'-dihydroxycarbonyl diphenylsulphone

. 3,3'-dihydroxycarbonyl diphenylsulphone

- pyrimidine or imidazole dicarboxylic acids.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 5, with the following:

B13

Yield (RR) = number of moles of mandelic acid formed / number of moles of guaiacol introduced

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 5, 7-13, 17 and 26 as follows:

B14

5. (Twice Amended) A process according to one of claim 27, wherein the hydroxylated aromatic compound of formula (I) is selected from the group consisting of phenol, o-cresol, m-cresol, 3-ethyl phenol, 2-tert-butyl phenol, guaiacol, guetol, and 2-isopropoxy phenol.

B15

7. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 6, wherein the catalyst is a compound having at least two carboxylic functions corresponding to formula (II) wherein R_1 symbolises a substituted or non-substituted hydrocarbon radical which can be a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated acyclic aliphatic radical; a monocyclic or polycyclic, saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic carbocyclic radical; a monocyclic or polycyclic, saturated, unsaturated or aromatic heterocyclic radical.

8. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 6, wherein the catalyst is a compound with at least two carboxylic functions corresponding to formula (II), in which R_1 represents a linear or branched, acyclic aliphatic residue having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, saturated or containing one or more unsaturations on the chain which can be single or conjugated double bonds, or triple bonds-, the hydrocarbon chain can optionally be:

(1) - interrupted by one of the following groups called Y:

-O-;-CO-;-COO-;-N-;-CO-N;-S-;-SO_2-

R_2 R_2

in which formulae R_2 represents hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl radical having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a radical of -$(CH_2)_p$ - COOH type in which p is a number between t and 5,

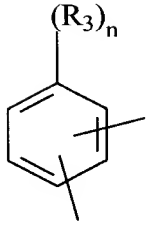
(2) - and/or bearing one of the following substituents:

- OH; - COOH; - CHO; - NO_P; - CN; - NH_2; - SH; -X; CF_3

- NH - $[(CH2)_P$ - COOH] or - N - $[(CH2)_P$ - $COOH]_2$

with X representing a halogen atom, and p having the meaning given hereinabove.

9. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 6, wherein the catalyst is a compound with at least two carboxylic functions corresponding to formula (II), in which R_1 represents a benzene residue corresponding to the general formula (III):



(III)

in which formula (III):

- n is an integer from 0 to 4,

- R_3 represents one of the following groups or functions,

· hydrogen atom,

· linear or branched alkyl radical having from I to 4 carbon atoms,

· linear or branched alkoxy radical having from I to 4 carbon atoms,

· methylene or ethylene dioxy radical,

· -CHO group,

· phenyl or benzyl radical,

· halogen atom.

B15 B1 cont'd

10. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 6, wherein the catalyst is a compound with at least two carboxylic functions corresponding to formula (II) in which the R1 radical represents a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon divalent residue; the rings can form between themselves ortho-condensed, ortho- and peri-condensed systems.

11. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 6, wherein the catalyst is a compound with at least two carboxylic functions corresponding to formula (II), in which R_1 represents a carbocyclic residue which is saturated or contains I or 2 unsaturations in the ring.

12. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 6, wherein the catalyst is a compound with at least two carboxylic functions corresponding to formula (II), in which R_1 represents a divalent radical constituted by a chain formation of two to four residues as defined hereinabove, an aliphatic residue, an aromatic residue or a cycloaliphatic residue, connected together by a valency bond or by a function group.

B15 cont'd

13. (Twice Amended) process according to claim 6, wherein the catalyst is a compound with at least two carboxylic functions corresponding to formula (II) selected from the group consisting of:

- oxalic acid
- malonic acid
- succinic acid
- glutaric acid
- adipic acid
- 2,4-dimethyl adipic acid
- pimelic acid
- suberic acid

· azelaic acid

· sebacic acid

· dodecane dioic acid

· fumaric acid

· maleic acid

· cyclohexane 1,4-dicarboxylic acid,

· phthalic acid

· isophthalic acid

· terephthalic acid

· phenylenediacetic acid

· naphthalene 1,5-dicarboxylic acid

· naphthalene 1,6-dicarboxylic acid

· 4,4'-diphenylcarboxylic acid

· 3,3'-diphenylcarboxylic acid

· bis(4-hydroxycarbonyl) phenyl oxide

· bis(3-hydroxycarbonyl) phenyl oxide

· 4,4'-dihydroxycarbonyl diphenylsulphone

· 3,3'-dihydroxycarbonyl diphenylsulphone

· ethylenediaminotetracetic acid (E.D.T.A.)

· diethylenetriaminopentacetic acid (D.T.P.A.)

· nitrilotriacetic acid (N.T.A.) and

· N-(2-hydroxyethyl)ethylene diarninotriacetic acid (H.E.D.T.A.).

B16

17. (Twice Amended) A process according to claim 27, wherein the quantity of alkali metal hydroxide is the stoichiometric quantity necessary to salify all the salifiable groups of the hydroxylated aromatic compound of formula (I) and to salify the carboxylic function of the glyoxylic acid.

B17

26. (Twice Amended) A process for the production of 4-hydroxy benzaldehyde and vanillin and analogues by oxidation of p-hydroxymandelic acid, 3-methoxy p-hydroxymandelic acid, 3-ethoxy p-hydroxymandelic acid, or 3-isopropoxy p-hydroxymandelic acid obtained in accordance with claim 27.